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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/618,473

07/11/2003

Xiaowei Deng

TI-33969

5307

23494 7590 12/21/2006
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, VAN THU T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2824

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/21/2006

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,473

Applicant(s)

DENG ET AL.

Examiner

VanThu Nguyen

Art Unit

2824

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 November 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7,9,11-18 and 23-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 9, 23 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11,12,14-17,24 and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 and 18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 December 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Response to Amendment

1. This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed on 11/27/2006.
2. Claims 1-7, 9, 11-18, 23-25 are pending and examined. Claims 8, 10, 19-22 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 11-12, 14-17, 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over P.G. Pub. No. 2003/0043680 to Akiba et al. (Akiba).

Regarding claims 11-12, Akiba discloses, in FIG. 13, a semiconductor memory device having address input circuit with an output line (e.g. element 65 having input A0 and output AB0), said address input circuit comprising a control circuitry (comprising **either** transistors 66-68; 67-68; 70-71, 67-68; or 70-71); and an intervention circuit (transistor 69) instantiated within the control circuitry, adapted to hold the output line at a desired state while control circuitry preceding the intervention circuit is powered down with a power switch (66) having a control signal input (input signal PD), wherein the power switch is not located within the control circuitry (e.g. transistor 66 is not within transistors 70-71).

Akiba does not disclose the element 65 is a word line driver, but address input circuit.

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However, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to use the address input circuit disclosed in Akiba as a word line driver since it has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structure limitations. Ex. Parte Masham, F.2d USPQ F.2d 1647 (1987).

Regarding claims 14-17, 24-25, Akiba also discloses that the intervention circuit is a transistor; the transistor 69 is between the driver transistor pair 67-68 and 70-71; transistor 69 is between output line AB0 and driver 66-68; signal PD controls both driver 66-68 and transistor 69; driver 66-68 is substantially equivalent to a pre-driver circuit; PD signal can also be replaced as sleep mode signal.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 1-7, 9, 23 are allowed.
6. Claims 13 and 18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The prior art made of record and considered pertinent to the applicant's disclosure does not teach or suggest the claimed invention having the following limitations, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations:

- As in claim 13: wherein the intervention circuit comprises a resistor; or

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- As in claim 18: wherein the intervention circuit is coupled to a first assertion signal source, and second assertion signal source is coupled to the driver circuitry.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 11/27/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because the NOR gate circuit disclosed in paragraph [0086] of Akiba is equivalent to the row periphery circuitry segment 100 shown in FIG. 1a or word line circuitry segment 300 shown in FIG. 3 of the present invention. Examiner has not cited the whole NOR gate circuit of Akiba as the control circuit, but only a few transistors within (see above rejection).

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VanThu Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1881.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (571) 272-1869. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 20, 2006



VanThu Nguyen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2824